



Congresswoman McCollum stands with nonprofit leaders on Capitol Hill.

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Background of the *Nonprofit Sector and Community Solutions Act* (H.R. 5533)

At a [press conference](#) on Capitol Hill on June 16, 2010, Congresswoman Betty McCollum (MN-04) announced the introduction of her groundbreaking legislation, the [*Nonprofit Sector and Community Solutions Act*](#) (H.R. 5533)

. This bill is one of the first federal initiatives to address the nonprofit sector as a whole. It will take the first steps toward integrating the nonprofit sector into the federal policymaking process by establishing formal structures in Congress and federal administrative agencies focused on the success of nonprofits.

H.R. 5533 will create a bipartisan "United States Council on Nonprofit Organizations and Community Solutions," comprised of leaders from nonprofits, foundations, businesses, and all levels of government to identify high-priority issues and make formal recommendations to Congress and the Administration. The legislation will also establish the "Interagency Working Group on Nonprofit Organizations and the Federal Government" to improve policy coordination among agencies in their dealings with nonprofit organizations to enhance outcomes and accountability. Finally, the Nonprofit Sector and Community Solutions Act would assign the Department of Commerce the task of compiling data on nonprofits and develop metrics for performance, establish reporting requirements, and expand information so Congress can make well-informed policy decisions on nonprofit legislation.

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Press Materials

[Congresswoman McCollum's press release](#)

[Congresswoman McCollum's remarks](#)

[*Nonprofit Sector and Community Solutions Act*](#)

[Voices of the *Nonprofit Sector and Community Solutions Act*](#)

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News Clips

"Early last week, Minnesota's 4th District Congresswoman, Betty McCollum, introduced legislation that, if passed, will build a more effective relationship between the federal government and nonprofits nationwide."

[June 24, 2010 -- McCollum hopes to draw more federal support for nonprofits](#)

"McCollum notes that 5 percent of Gross Domestic Product is generated by nonprofits and 10 percent of the nation's workforce is employed by nonprofits, comparable to the manufacturing sector, yet the federal government does not monitor or evaluate the nonprofit sector."

[June 18, 2010 -- McCollum pushes nonprofit bill](#)

"McCollum's legislation would provide a way for Minnesota to have access to nationwide data concerning economic performance to help nonprofits and policymakers establish better partnerships to serve area communities."

[June 18, 2010 -- McCollum nonprofit bill](#)

"Most industries have a relevant federal council that acts as a go-between for said industry and the federal government. Not so for nonprofits, despite the fact that they employ about 10 percent of American workers. That, said Rep. Betty McCollum, means nonprofits are too often late to or left out of key decisions at the federal level."

[June 17, 2010 -- Nonprofit groups seek closer role in lawmaking process](#)

"U.S. Rep. Betty McCollum, D-Minn., the Nonprofit Sector and Community Solutions Act calls for the federal government to collect information and data about nonprofits across the nation."

[June 16, 2010 -- Nonprofit data bill rallies support in Arizona](#)

"The nonprofit sector historically has strong connections with government, in some cases providing almost a third of the sector's budget. At the same time, nonprofits work with government to hold them accountable or in partnership. In the end, Congress has oversight responsibility of exempt organizations."

[June 16, 2010 -- Legislation Seeks New Federal Agency For Nonprofits](#)

"Noting that nonprofit employees make up 10 percent of the American work force, Ms. McCollum complained at the press conference that no Congressional committee or federal agency exists to help nonprofit groups succeed -- for example, nothing along the lines of the Small Business Administration, which helps for-profit groups."

[June 16, 2010 -- Nonprofit Leaders Praise New Charity Legislation](#)

"According to the Democrat, one in ten individuals are employed by nonprofit organizations, however, the nonprofit sector lacks adequate representation and wants their relationship with the government to undergo major improvement."

[June 16, 2010 -- Landmark Legislation Paves Way For Nonprofits](#)

"Ms. McCollum's bill would also require the U.S. Commerce Department to collect and summarize all available federal data about nonprofit groups -- and to recommend ways to assess and track the size and scope of the U.S. nonprofit world."

[June 15, 2010 -- Congresswoman Plans to Introduce Bill to Improve Federal Policy Toward Charities](#)

"The McCollum bill is aimed at generating "better federal coordination, greater support for the work of nonprofit organizations and the collection of meaningful data and research about nonprofits," according to the Washington D.C.-based National Council of Nonprofits."

[June 14, 2010 -- Nonprofits energized over federal proposal](#)

"Betty McCollum-a Democratic congresswoman from Minnesota-is frustrated that federal leaders don't seem to understand the role charities play in the economy or give them the tools they need to be effective and avoid wasting billions of government dollars. Now she is about to propose an idea she hopes will be the first step in fixing the problem, and she plans to continue her crusade to focus greater attention on the needs of charities."

[May 16, 2010 -- Congresswoman Undertakes Effort to Give Charities More Support and Attention](#)

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